

REMARKS

This application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated April 7, 2003. Claims 1-11, 18, 19, 21, 22, and 42-47 are pending in this application. Claims 12-17 and 20 have been cancelled, without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter. Claims 42-47 have been added to provide Applicants with a more complete scope of protection. Claims 1, 2, 5, 7, 8, 11, 18, 19, 21 and 22 have been amended to define still more clearly what Applicants regard as their invention. Claims 1, 8, 18, 19, 21, 22, 42 and 45 are in independent form. Favorable reconsideration is requested.

A Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement is enclosed.

Applicants note that a Request for Approval of Drawing Changes was submitted on January 17, 2003, but that the outstanding Office Action did not indicate whether the drawing changes discussed therein were approved or disapproved. Applicants respectfully request that these drawing changes be approved.

The Office Action rejected Claims 1-22 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,249,835 (Isoda). Cancellation of Claims 12-17 and 20 renders their rejections moot. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections relating to Claims 1-11, 18, 19, 21, and 22.

Applicants submit that independent Claims 1, 8, 18, 19, 21, and 22, together with the claims dependent thereon, are patentably distinct from Isoda for at least the following reasons.

The aspect of the present invention set forth in Claim 1 is an information processing apparatus that includes a communication control means and a memory means. The communication control means receives a read command, which specifies a memory

address where data to be read out are stored, from an external device. The memory means stores information about a device mountable on the information processing apparatus in a memory area from which the external device can read out data by using the read command. The device mountable on the information processing apparatus includes an attachable part through which the device is attached to the information processing apparatus, and a function assist part for assisting a function of the information processing apparatus.

One important feature of Claim 1 is that information about a device mountable on the information processing apparatus stored in a memory area can be accessed from an external device by using a read command that directly specifies an access address. With this feature the external apparatus can easily recognize information about a device mountable on the information processing apparatus.

Isoda relates to a system for converting print instruction into image data or print data based on whether a rasterization level is of a first level or a second level. Applicants note that Isoda discusses an apparatus having an IEEE 1394 interface and controlling rasterization level in accordance with data communication ability. According to Isoda, contents stored in a memory (RAM2) are an application, an OS, and an externally supplied printer driver. However, Isoda fails to teach or suggest storing information about a device that is mountable on the apparatus in the register space of Figure 22. In other words, Applicants submit that nothing in Isoda would teach or suggest storing information about a mountable device in a memory area that can be accessed from an external device by using a read command that directly specifies an access address, as recited in Claim 1.

Accordingly, Applicants submit that at least for this reason, Claim 1 is not anticipated by Isoda, and respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C.

§ 102(e).

Independent Claims 8, 18, 19, 21, and 22 include the feature of storing information about a mountable device in a memory area that can be accessed from an external device by using a read command that directly specifies an access address, as recited in Claim 1. Accordingly, Claims 8, 18, 19, 21, and 22 are believed to be patentable for at least the same reasons as discussed above with respect to Claim 1.

Apparatus Claim 42 includes the feature of a memory means for storing information about a device that is mountable on the information processing apparatus but is not mounted on the information processing apparatus, and method Claim 45 includes the feature of an acquisition step of acquiring, from the external device, information about a device that is mountable on the external device but is not mounted on the external device. Applicants submit that nothing has been found in Isoda that would teach or suggest these features and accordingly, Applicants submit that these claims are therefore patentable.

The other claims in this application depend from one or another of the independent claims discussed above and, therefore, are submitted to be patentable for at least the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, individual consideration or reconsideration, as the case may be, of the patentability of each claim on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York Office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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